



M/Rue
D
SN
9/19/a

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Billington et al.

Art Unit : 3652

Serial No. : 09/543,164

Examiner : J. Shapiro

Filed : April 5, 2000

Title : MONEY ACCEPTANCE METHOD AND APPARATUS

BOX CPA

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

SEP 05 2002

GROUP 3600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 26 and amend claims 25, 27 and 28 as follows (unamended claims appear in small print and italics for ease of reference):

8. *A vending machine having display means arranged to give first and second indications that insufficient change may be available to a customer making a purchase, the first indication being given as a warning prior to a transaction being initiated, and the second indication being given after a transaction has been initiated, each indication being produced in response to the detection of a respective set of conditions.*

9. *A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, which is operable to accept monetary units in a plurality of denominations, and to dispense change in at least one of said denominations but not in at least one further denomination, wherein a first indication is given when the amount of available change in the machine is less than the value of the highest-value further denomination monetary unit.*

10. *A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a second indication is given after a product is selected for vending in dependence on a comparison of the money available for change and the price of the selected vend item.*

11. *A vending machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein the circumstances giving rise to the second indication also cause inhibition of the selected vend, the machine then being operable to permit selection of a different vend.*

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. EF353817647US

August 29, 2002

Date of Deposit